

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**
August 8, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Resources Agency Building, Room 1131

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes May 2, 2008
- Draft Meeting Notes May 16, 2008
- PPIC/UC Davis Presentation: Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Draft Meeting Notes May 2, 2008 approved with correction to Don Glaser's name
- Draft Meeting Notes May 16, 2008 approved

Updates

- Cindy Darling is retiring from the Resources Agency. Her participation in BDCP is greatly appreciated and she will be missed.
- DWR has scheduled meetings with landowners to discuss land surveys. Meetings will start on August 12 in Galt. The focus will be on landowners where the surveys need to be completed to address implementation of BDCP actions. DWR sent out about 1,000 letters to landowners inviting them to the meetings.
- The next Delta Vision (DV) Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 21 and 22. DV will begin a series of public meetings around the state starting August 18 to talk about the Draft Strategic Plan and to get stakeholder input.
- The Fish and Game Commission announced on August 7 their decision to redesignate the Delta smelt from threatened to endangered status, and to renew the section 2084 regulations on Longfin smelt for another 3 months.
- SC is responding to questions regarding BDCP from DV about the timeline, schedule, ultimate outcome, and BDCP's definition of success.
- NMFS is in the process of responding to the questions raised in the letter from congressional representatives Miller, Tauscher, Thompson, Matsui, and McNerney. NMFS is also preparing a response for Judge Wanger's request for near term actions.
- The Clarksburg tour is scheduled for August 22. The tour will begin after the SC meeting. There is enough room on the bus for about 25 to 30 people. The bus tour invitation was extended to the Habitat TT and the consultants. The bus will leave at Noon and return at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Jason Peltier by Monday August 25.

Draft Meeting Notes May 2, 2008

Approved with correction to Don Glaser's name.

Request from SC members to shorten notes to be more of a summary of the discussion.

Draft Meeting Notes May 16, 2008

Approved

Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta PPIC/UC Davis Presentation (see associated documents and handouts)

Jay Lund from the University of California-Davis presenting.

The following is an outline of items addressed in the presentation:

- Problems of California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
 - ✓ Physical instability
 - ✓ Ecosystem instability
 - ✓ Prohibitive costs for maintaining all islands
 - ✓ Worsening water quality for agricultural and urban users
- Delta of tomorrow will be different
 - ✓ Higher sea level and large bodies of open water
 - ✓ Increased salinity, habitat variability
 - ✓ Higher water quality costs
- Comparing water export strategies long-term (to mid-century)
- Evaluation criteria: co-equal goals
 - ✓ Delta ecosystem
 - ✓ Water supply
- Conclusions

SC members presented several questions to Peter Moyle and Jay Lund about the issues raised in the presentation including: how the fish viability numbers were generated, how to address potential new invasive species, what is the preferred hydrology, gauging the effectiveness of habitat restoration, desire for more information on near term solutions, including the consequences of such actions, effects of other stressors, and upstream assumptions.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Public Outreach Liaisons Working Group

Keith Coolidge reporting: Secretary Chrisman is continuing monthly meetings with elected officials from the Delta, including five counties and 12 cities. The next meeting is scheduled for August 22. Secretary Chrisman is committed to holding these monthly meetings to discuss pertinent Delta issues, broadening the picture of the state's involvement, but especially the specifics of the BDCP. Draft fact sheets have been developed and are being finalized for presentation to the Management Team next week.

Membership Working Group:

Roger Patterson reporting: There are four official letters from North Delta Water Agency, North Delta Cares, Friant, and Delta Wetlands requesting membership to the BDCP Steering Committee. The WG will begin the process of addressing the applications by setting up interviews with the applicants. These applications for membership have raised the issue that different people or entities have an interest in and/or a desire to influence BDCP, and that the default response is to apply for membership to the SC. Consequently, the BDCP process may need to provide different opportunities for information accessibility or involvement. Three of the applicants expressed a willingness to sign the planning agreement and two have expressed an interest in joining as PREs. SC members discussed the need for a larger strategy for membership and/or participation.

Science Liaisons Working Group

Marc Ebbin reporting: Wayne Spencer is on vacation; when he gets back he will be working toward a terrestrial species workshop for the middle of September. The Science Liaisons Working Group will reconvene to discuss a potential adaptive management workshop in October.

Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Groups

John McCamman (co-chair) reporting: Other Stressors Working Group is on hiatus for 2 weeks.

Habitat Restoration Technical Team

Pete Rawlings reporting: There have been two DRERIP evaluation sessions for Habitat Actions, *Freshwater and Brackish Intertidal Marsh* and *Floodplain Inundation and Channel Margin Habitat*. The Habitat Restoration Technical Team met this week to debrief about the DRERIP evaluation results. Future meetings will focus on finalizing conservation measures to prepare for full DRERIP evaluation to be held in November.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Marc Ebbin reporting: The Working Group is currently focused on what it will take to implement the habitat restoration actions. In addition, the group is looking at the governance commonalities between DV and BDCP.

Conveyance Working Group

Ann Hayden (co-chair) reporting: HOTT plans to give a presentation on lessons learned at the next SC meeting. HOTT is working on refining ranges and parameters. The group is currently focusing on Hood Bypass flow and X2 parameters. A most promising operational scenario has been in preparation. NGO representatives to the SC raised concerns about conservation measures related to flows. In addition, they expressed their concerns about the effectiveness of the DRERIP evaluations currently in progress. There may be a desire for additional training workshops on the DRERIP process for people who missed the first training.

SC members discussed the workload impact that OCAP is having on the fish agency's participation in BDCP working groups and technical teams.

Jerry Johns reporting: The Conveyance WG will hear the HOTT proposal for a promising operational scenario and then bring it to the SC. Fish Facilities Technical Team is preparing a report summarizing four options for locations and concept designs of diversion/screening structures and will present a summary at a future Conveyance WG meeting.

SC members expressed concern about the general nature of WG and TT reports. A suggestion was made that WGs and TTs provide more detailed status updates to the SC.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group:

Will Stelle reporting: There have been meetings with NGOs and the fish agencies regarding the approach to goals and objectives. Meetings will also occur with PREs to discuss goals and objectives. The Management Team and SAIC is tasked with preparing and presenting goals and objectives examples at the next meeting of the Goals and Objectives WG.

Public Comment

Jackie McDonald, representing Sacramento County, expressed appreciation to the BDCP of the effort to reach out to local governments. Sacramento County is concerned about BDCP moving forward without the input of local agencies. They plan to prepare written comments to elaborate their concern.

Maria Wong, representing Yolo County HCP/NCCP effort, indicated that the Yolo HCP/NCCP is nearing some critical decision points. They have had conversations with various entities related to BDCP at the higher levels, but they have not spoken substantively about the areas of overlap and believe that it is critical to begin as soon as possible. She would like to be contacted by the BDCP Public Outreach Group or others who can address these concerns.

SC members discussed the need to give an updated presentation on BDCP progress to the other local HCP/NCCPs.

Oshe Meserve representing the City of Antioch appreciates the consideration by BDCP of in-Delta interests for inclusion in the process. Antioch is interested in a "3rd rail" or an alternative to actual membership on the SC for providing input the process. She suggests an In-Delta Working Group be formed that focuses on the in-Delta perspective to review all the proposals planned for in Delta. Ms. Meserve also raised concerns about the difficulty of getting access to working group and technical team materials and suggests putting them on the Internet.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (Resources Agency) (phone)
Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)
Greg Gartrell (Contra Costa Water District)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Kenny Watkins (California Farm Bureau Federation)
John McCamman (DFG)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
Ted Meyers (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets